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***From :***

***GMB Union,***

***West Yorkshire Police Branch,***

***Force Headquarters,***

***Wakefield.***

***WF1 3QS.***

***To :***

***Chief Constable.***

***West Yorkshire Police,***

***Laburnum Road,***

***Wakefield.***

***WF1 3QS.***

***27/09/2022.***

**Dear Chief Constable,**

**Subject – PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION POLICE STAFF MEDALLIONS.**

**The GMB TRADE UNION are writing this letter on behalf of our members to raise concerns on their behalf in respect of the above subject.**

**This is an ‘OPEN LETTER’ and will be circulated to all our members and posted on notice boards around the Force so that other staff members can see that we have raised this matter on their behalf.**

**We have received over the past few months numerous complaints and enquiries from members about this subject.**

**You may recall that on the 2nd of June 2022 our Queen, Elizabeth the Second, celebrated her Platinum Jubilee having loyally served her country for 70 years.**

**Police Officers as is tradition, and subject of Royal warrant, were awarded medals as part of that celebration. They were rightly rewarded for their contributions to society, their allegiance to the Crown and the pubic we serve.**

**Police Officers were incidentally given medals on time which were delivered and awarded to individual officers in advance of the celebratory date.**

**Police staff were told that they would be awarded a memento medallion by the employer, sanctioned by the NPCC, to celebrate the Jubilee.**

**Many excuses have since been made to explain why these medallions were not produced and awarded to police staff as promised and at the time of the Jubilee celebrations.**

**The excuses for the employer’s failure to deliver on their promises are poorly made and not in keeping with the transparency, integrity, and reputation we have come to expect from our organisation.**

**It is now some four months after the Platinum Jubilee was celebrated and Police Staff have still not been awarded their medallions.**

**The GMB TRADE UNION are aware that the medallions have been in Force for some time but that the quality is such that we are told the Force is now to embarrassed to award them.**

**This coupled with the sad fact our Queens has now died makes this fiasco a real and genuine embarrassment for the Force.**

**At a time when Police Staff are leaving the organisation in numbers and morale is at rock bottom this is yet another example of a poorly managed situation that displays a lack of thought or concern as to the impact it will have and has had on Police Staff.**

**We can use no simpler word to describe this situation but to say this is a ‘disgraceful’ demonstration of how little West Yorkshire Police’s Senior Leadership value its police staff and all they do to support the organisation and our police officer colleagues.**

**How can the Chief Constable reconcile his failures to reward his police staff members for their contributions?**

**The simple demonstration of the award of a Queens Jubilee Medallion would have gone someway to building bridges. Instead, it has underlined and reinforced exactly what we have known for many years.**

**Sadly, the rhetoric we hear daily across the Force does nothing but reinforce the fact that we are not valued equally when compared to our police officer colleagues.**

**This omission shows that words spoken, and communications made, are no longer genuine, lack sincerity and are simply said to placate individuals at a time of great upheaval and change.**

**This is a shocking indictment of the organisation.**

**This is a shambles in the first degree and sends out a clear and unequivocal message that the divide being created by the employer, between police officers and police staff, is growing by the day.**

**At a time when we should all be pulling together this simple act has done nothing more than alienate police staff and eroded irreparably what confidence they had in senior management.**

**Our members will not forgive or forget the employer for its failure to formally recognise police staff and their contributions to policing in West Yorkshire over many years. The Jubilee celebration was a joyous occasion for many public workers but something that has clearly been missed by our employers in its failure to recognise their contribution to society.**

**We would be grateful for a formal response in the form of a letter so we can inform our members the ‘reasons why’.**

**Martin Jordan.**

**Martin JORDAN. B.A. (Hons)**

**GMB UNION Shop Steward and Lead Health and Safety Representative.**

